

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

MUZZLES NEEDED.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The respectable Mayor of Davenport, Iowa, is just now paying in sackcloth and ashes in his old age the penalty of never having put a bit in his mouth in his youth, that unruly member, his tongue, having run away with him to his own undoing. It appears that a story was lately circulated respecting the chastity of a certain Miss Fejervary, a wealthy and unprotected young lady of that city. She determined to become her own avenger, and traced it to the first responsible person, who proved to be our unfortunate Mayor, a grave and venerable citizen. She promptly sued him. In the course of the trial her innocence was proved, but the verdict was in the Mayor's favor, as it had appeared he had "repeated the slander with no malicious intent, but as deploring it, if true." The young lady, not considering his lamentations any recompense for her murdered good name, has avowed her intention of pursuing her vengeance to the bitter end. "Should the best years of my life be spent in the endeavor," she says, "I will wait until a verdict has been given for or against me either at this court or a higher one, and an example set, not only to me, but to all slanderers; for in bringing this suit I was not unmindful of the many innocent girls whom I have seen injured as shamefully as I have been, and much less able to defend themselves."

We are not sure that Miss Fejervary has hit upon the most effective way to silence a slanderer; but there is a genuine, hearty vigor in her onslaught which is wholesome, if not prudent. We hold to the creed, long out of fashion, that a woman's good name should be as unsullied as "the fanned snow," that's bolted by the northern blast twice over; and that neither money nor blood is rich enough to pay her for its once soiled whiteness. But after all we confess some sympathy goes with the unhappy Mayor. A fellow feeling makes us kind. Why should this respectable citizen be chosen by numerous disasters in the shape of Miss Fejervary from out a country teeming with gossips, to be lashed naked through the world? Warnings such as this must force a sterner sex to turn upon each other and hold solemn inter-confessional together. Have any of us a bit in our mouths? In our fathers' days gossip was the peculiar vice of women; the reproach of it was the rod perpetually in pickle wherewith they were lashed and stung and properly kept under by their lords and governors. The popular manly idea of woman past sweet sixteen was a tea table, a wagging head, and a cackling tongue. But we have changed all that. Since petticoats have come rustling into the jury-box, the judge's bench, and the room, we have stripped the dear unknown delights of scandal-mongering. Why should we not carry the war into Africa? If Othello's occupation's gone, is he not to essay Mrs. Othello's? To be sure, we enlarge and liberalize the business. Instead of whispering the story over the fence to a neighbor, or to the sewing society, we take the whole world into our confidence; we distribute the dainty dish of slander, the more highly spiced the better, in the morning's journal instead of at the tea table, that half a million of readers may partake of it, and run to spread their own versions in country newspapers, at restaurants or clubs. In stead of two women, their chins together, accusing Mrs. Jones over the way of cheating her grocer, or Mr. Jones of flirting with the chambermaid, we have a nation of men on tiptoe with eagerness to hear how Mr. Cooke ran away with one of his parishioners; greedy too for the minutest details when the young lady's mother was born, and what is the political opinion of her brothers; or we stand open-mouthed with expectation from Maine to California to hear how much gin another reverend gentleman mixes with his milk. The mode of conversation is different, but that there is a similarity in the subjects cannot be denied. We have endeavored to keep this masculine propensity out of sight of women. We would fain convince them and ourselves that our minds dwell apart in lofty solitudes of reason, philosophy, and abstruse science, to them unknown. But the dear creatures are not deceived. They will not long shut their eyes to the fact that the Traupmann murder was of more absorbing interest than the Ecumenical Council; that the nation will wait breathless to hear the filthiest slanders of a murder trial, and remain quite indifferent as to whether the Indians are exterminated or not; that men reach a certain position and power simply through their skill in virulent scandal-mongering.

The hag who personified slander so long had but a feeble breath; but the young journalist who has taken her place, who makes his daily chop and cigars by dodging at back doors to report specialties, has a "tongue that outvenoms all the worms of the Nile, and doth belch all corners of the world." What is to be done about it? Are we to go on exhibiting ourselves tricked out in the cast-off vice of the women? Is scandal become the many art of self-defense? Will the Mayor of Davenport, Iowa, make vicarious atonement for all of us? Or is he only a providential warning to consider our ways, lest a Nemesis in the shape of a Fejervary or a late sense of decency and manliness among the people overtake us at the last?

FORNEY AND FREAS.

From the N. Y. World. Who Mr. Forney is everybody knows—but we are a little puzzled as to Freas. We take him, however, to be the editor of a weekly journal which chronicles calumnies in the outskirts of Philadelphia. He is evidently a jolly individual, for we read of his "festive board" and the "drinking of healths" and "the clinking of glasses;" and in our mind's eye we clearly see the cherric forms and faces of the conductors of the Philadelphia press having a good time generally around the suburban mahogany. Then it was that, in the midst of the innocent and bewildering fumes of Verzenay ad libitum (for in the article of liquor Philadelphia never touches the domestic fabric)—in those hilarious moments when, according to Punch's sketch of the frolic at Greenwich, everybody asks everybody else to dine—then was it that Freas nominated Forney for Governor, and we have now, in loaded columns, the exact terms in which the tempting offer of the Germantown Mark Antony was declined. It is a military correspondence, too, for it is Colonel Forney writing to Major Freas—veterans of the same era and the same array—Wellington writing to Raglan after a dinner at Apsley House. Freas thinks no one better than Forney to promote the common weal. Forney, with an air like Macbeth's and vulpine, declares that for him "the gubernatorial grapes are not sour," for he never cared for them; and so the

Governorship of Pennsylvania actually goes to Freas. Mr. Forney thinks that for editors to aspire to or hold office is a fatal mistake; and surely he ought to know. He tried once to be United States Senator, and his old friend and patron, Mr. Buchanan, indorsed him. He wished to be Postmaster-General, but the same old friend was not quite so pliant. He was for years Clerk of the House of Representatives—and a very good clerk too—and then was elected to the Secretaryship of the Senate. His views of duty in this last function he thus describes in the letter to Freas:—

"I have tried the experiment (of holding office) to the full, and found it irksome and laborious. My last was that of being Secretary of the Senate of the United States and editor of the Washington Chronicle and Philadelphia Press while Johnson was under trial on the articles of impeachment. I wrote incessantly, and I would have written of office, and was under a strong fire front and rear all the time. One of the Johnson Senators reproached me for my temerity, and I replied, 'I admit it is somewhat irreverent for the Secretary of the Senate to attack Andrew Johnson, and to question the gracious Senators who are trying to save him; but it would equally become an editor of the Chronicle and Press if he refused to discharge his duty to himself and his country, as he understands it.'"

The court of impeachment was a grave body, and its scribe—who "wrote down what the throng uttered"—was a sworn, and supposed to be responsible, public official. What, let us ask, would have been thought of the clerk of Recorder Hackett's court if he had employed his leisure or devoted his time to denounce, in print and in advance, Daniel McFarland as a murderer and the jury as "trying to save him?" A President on his trial with Senators to judge him is, according to the new Freas doctrine, a mere trifle in comparison, and it would have been "base" in the editorial clerk not to do his best to forestall justice! Let us congratulate Pennsylvania on escaping a tripartite sort of Governor—Cerberus—"three gentlemen at once"—one who would write messages and editorials, squibs, and vetoes, and subordinate the executive function to the two dabbles. In the larger part of Mr. Forney's homily to the press we concur, and we think we detect in the concluding passage a confession of disappointment as to President Grant, which, we doubt not, is entirely genuine.

"Let us not forget that we are forever making great outcries about material, and that, if a very little share of the space given to squibs upon one of our own professions were given to the cultivation of a good understanding in business and social relations among ourselves, the nobilities in office would diminish, and the editor would no longer be distracted by his readiness to fly at his brother's throat in his willingness to help inferiority into superior position."

A PLAGUE OF FOG.

From the N. Y. Times. Aristophanes, when he put a certain invocation into the mouth of Socrates, must have been under the influence of some such meteorological conditions as those to which, for several weeks past, New York has been subjected. In the "leafy month of June" we might, without over-sanguine anticipations, have looked for a fine day or two; but we have thus far been treated to little more than a "foul and pestilent congregation of vapors." The profaned fog and the never-ending drizzle are teaching us, in a world where it is customary to regard as at once the main English incentive to *ennui* and excuse for suicide, Aristophanes makes even the clouds themselves so exasperated with the dull, encircling mists, that they propose to scatter and dissolve them, to the end that they may "show themselves to the earth in their immortal beauty." The Greek satirist may have been a little uncertain in his science, but he had a just conception of the effect of fogs and mist upon the spirits and temper of mankind. These are elastic, as he knew, and with an occasional relief from pressure, return with ease to their normal cheerfulness. But when, as of late on our Atlantic seaboard, days and weeks follow each other enlivened by the scintillating and most transient gleams of sunshine, and bestowing as staple weather a succession of dismal fogs, relieved by steady down-pour, Aristophanes may have doubted, as we do, whether there might not be a limit to human endurance.

There is a melancholy consolation in reflecting that others have passed through worse vicissitudes than those which have lately disturbed ourselves. In London one expects to hear of dense fogs as matters of course, so that accounts of extraordinary phenomena of the sort that reach us, as occurring in that city, excite little wonder or attention. But even in beautiful Paris such things now and then have been. An old journal of the reign of Henry III, published in French, says that "on Sunday, the 24th of January, 1588, there rose over the City of Paris and its environs so dense a fog, lasting from moon until the next day, as never was before or within the memory of man. It was so black and thick that two persons walking together in the street could not see each other, and were compelled to provide themselves with torches, in order to recognize one another, when it was not yet 3 o'clock. Very many wild geese, and other flying creatures of the air, were found where they had fallen bewildered in the court-yards of the houses, having dashed themselves against the buildings and the chimneys." This was nothing, however, to the great fog of 1783, which spread all over Europe and lasted for something like two months; or to the fogs at Lima, which are said to have lasted in some instances for half a year. In the latter city, however, it seldom or never rains, so that the fog, by moistening the soil and preserving the freshness of the vegetation, is a blessing and not an unmitigated annoyance.

Some philosophers tell us that we ought to find comfort in our recent affliction, in the probability that it is caused by the Gulf Stream, which, by being deflected nearer and nearer to the American coast, is gradually altering the climate, and making it mild and soft, like that of the southwestern counties of England. But those who have been off Newfoundland will have an uneasy apprehension that the climate of that damp locality, rather than of Torquay or Bourne-mouth, is what such a change would bring us; and certainly late experience gives color to the fear. The theory that we are indebted for our obdurate visitor to the proximity of icebergs is plausible enough in a scientific sense, although not corroborated by incoming ships. In either case, the grounds for congratulation are slight, since on both hypotheses we can only look to be made uncomfortable without any visible corresponding advantage. A third possible cause is even less agreeable to contemplate. We know that the phenomenon is produced by the meeting of two currents of air of unequal temperature. It is conceivable, then, if not probable, that by some as yet mysterious process two such currents have established a constant friction in the neighborhood, so that our atmosphere may be reduced to a state of chronic murkiness, and fogs be with us much more frequently than we have been accustomed to see them heretofore. Lieutenant De Haven, of the United States navy, during his expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, saw, we are told, what appeared a similar instance. At the

northern extremity of Wellington Channel he beheld a dense fog-bank, motionless and suspended in the air—a "water-sky," rising above the Polar Sea discovered by Dr. Kane in 1854. Very much such a sky seems of late to have hovered over New York, and we can only still cling to the hope that we shall get rid of it before the fall season fairly sets in. The French always associate London with melancholy vapors, and the weeping sky type for them the conventional gloom of the English character. When the choice drama of Jack Sheppard was adapted and brought out at the Porte St. Martin—the principal scenes being in the London streets—it was christened *Les Chevaliers de la Brouillard*—The Knights of the Fog—and drab-colored gazes were stretched across the stage to give proper effect to the action. If the atmosphere of New York does not quickly change for the better, we shall eventually eclipse the well-won reputation of London, and usurp in the estimation of the lively Gaul the place she has hitherto occupied. The capital of perfidious Albion will no longer be to his mind the synonym of sadness and weariness of spirit—the distinction will be fairly wrested away by the foggy triumphs of Manhattan.

CONGRESS—RAILROAD JOBS—THE CUBAN LOBBY INVESTIGATION.

From the N. Y. Herald. Railroad jobs occupied more than their share of attention in the Senate on Friday. Mr. Pomeroy moved to take up the bill granting a land subsidy to the central branch of the Pacific Railroad. Mr. Thayer opposed the motion, and wanted to know the reason for this pressure to take up this bill, when it was almost impossible to get any other bill in the morning hour. Another reason Mr. Thayer had for opposing the motion was that he had a similar bill to introduce, which clashed with that of Mr. Pomeroy. The bill to abolish the franking privilege was taken up and discussed by Messrs. Morrill and Sumner, the latter opposing it as being destructive and not constructive—a crude, raw measure, full of faults and opposed to the interests of the people. An evening session was held, at which a bill was reported appropriating fifty thousand dollars as payment of the expenses of Spotted Tail and Red Cloud and their suites during their visit to Washington and for the purchase of presents for these savages.

The House, with the astuteness rightfully attributed to that body, dropped all public business for a while to look after a newspaper correspondent who had inadvertently maligned Representative Fitch, of Nevada, by giving a synopsis of the testimony sworn to by N. B. Taylor before General Butler's Cuban Investigating Committee. After venting a vast deal of unnecessary spleen upon the press in general and the New York correspondents in particular, the House resolved to expel the obnoxious member from the reporters' gallery, and accordingly the Sergeant-at-Arms placed the unlucky correspondent at the bar of the House, where, after being lectured by the Speaker, he was called upon for his defense. The defense appeared to put a new face upon the matter, and induced a receding of the correspondent, the House referring the subject to a special committee for investigation. Friday's vote tabling Mr. Davis' Naturalization bill was reconsidered and the bill recommitted to the Judiciary Committee. The House proceeding to consider the Senate amendments to the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill, Mr. Dawes called attention to the fact that said amendments were two hundred and fifty-six in number, all of them, with two or three exceptions, adding to the amount appropriated, including the hundred thousand dollars to commence work on the new State Department, to cost over six million dollars. The amendment excluding from the Court of Claims all persons who had participated in the Rebellion, notwithstanding their having obtained pardons, was disagreed to, and a substitute adopted excepting the cases when such pardon or amnesty was granted during the Rebellion by President Lincoln. It is to be hoped that the House will adhere to its substitute. The amendment of the Senate was *ex post facto* in its character, and wholly unwarranted a place upon the statute book.

THE McFARLAND DIVORCE CASE.

From the N. Y. Sun. In proceeding to obtain a reopening of the Indiana suit in which Mrs. McFarland obtained her pretended divorce from him, Mr. McFarland has done just what self-respect and conscious integrity would have dictated. The ostensible ground for granting the divorce was his temperance and cruel treatment of his wife. He has all along denied that he was either a man of intemperate habits or guilty of any unworthy acts as a husband. He now shows his confidence in his ability to prove the falsehood of the charges against him by demanding a new investigation of these charges under circumstances which cannot fail to insure the elucidation of the truth in regard to them. That his application for a rehearing will be successful ought not to be in the least doubtful. There is no question but that the former hearing was conducted under circumstances which throw great suspicion upon its fairness and good faith. Mr. McFarland never was personally informed of the proceedings against him, and the utmost pains were taken to keep him in ignorance. The notice to him required by law to be published in a newspaper was indeed printed in a newspaper of Morgan county, but in a special edition, and every copy of that edition, it is alleged, was bought up and suppressed, so that the publication never really took place. At all events, no proof of the publication can now be found. The trial was held at night, and in a manner intended to secure privacy; and Mr. McFarland asserts that the principal witness against him, Mrs. Calhoun, committed perjury in giving her testimony. Whether or not she succeeds in establishing his assertion, it is quite certain that this witness ought to be required to testify again, when he is present with his counsel to cross-examine her, and test the accuracy of her statements in the manner which long experience has shown to be indispensable to the attainment of justice. Still more should he be allowed to bring forward witnesses in his own behalf, and to submit to the Court all the facts upon which a just decision can alone be rendered. It is to be remarked, too, that should the case be reopened as he asks, and should he go on and appear in future proceedings, Mr. McFarland will waive all right to dispute the jurisdiction of the Court, and, if a decree should be again rendered against him, it will probably be sustained by the courts of this State. His wife, therefore, if she is as confident of the justice of her cause as she professes to be, cannot refuse to join with him in his petition, and agree to abide the result of the new trial.

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SECURITY FROM LOSS BY BURGLARY, ROBBERY, FIRE, OR ACCIDENT. The Fidelity Insurance, Trust, and Safe Deposit Company, OF PHILADELPHIA. IN THEIR New Marble Fire-proof Building, Nos. 329-331 CHESTNUT STREET. Capital subscribed, \$1,000,000; paid, \$550,000. COUPON BONDS, STOCKS, SECURITIES, FAMILY PLATE, GOLD, DEEDS, and VALUABLES of every description received for safe-keeping, under guarantee, and at moderate rates. The Company also rents SAFES INSIDE THEIR BUILDING—PROOF AGAINST FIRE, BURGLARY, and other accidents, at prices varying from \$15 to \$75 a year—according to size. An extra size for Corporations and Banks. Rooms and desks adjoining vaults provided for Safe Renters. DEPOSITS OF MONEY RECEIVED ON INTEREST, at three per cent, payable by check, without notice, and at four per cent, payable by check, on the day's notice. TRAVELLERS' LETTERS OF CREDIT furnished available in all parts of Europe. INCOME COLLECTED and remitted for one per cent. The Company act as EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, and GUARDIANS, and RECEIVE and EXECUTE TRUSTS of every description, from the Courts, Corporations, and Individuals. N. B. BROWN, President. C. A. H. BORIE, Vice-President. ROBERT PATTERSON, Secretary and Treasurer. N. B. Brown, Treasurer. Clarence H. Clark, George F. Tyler, John Walsh, Charles G. Gibson, Edward W. Clark, Henry Pratt McKean. J. Gillingham Peck, J. S. Hiltz. THE PHILADELPHIA TRUST SAFE DEPOSIT AND INSURANCE COMPANY. OFFICE AND BURGLAR-PROOF VAULTS IN THE PHILADELPHIA BANK BUILDING, No. 421 CHESTNUT STREET. CAPITAL, \$500,000. For safe-keeping of GOVERNMENT BONDS and other SECURITIES, FAMILY PLATE, JEWELRY, and other VALUABLES, under special guarantee, at the lowest rates. The Company also offer for Rent at rates varying from \$15 to \$75 per annum, the renter alone holding the key. SMALL SAFES IN THE BURGLAR-PROOF VAULTS, affording absolute SECURITY against Fire, Theft, BURGLARY, and ACCIDENT. All Sundry obligations, such as TRUSTS, GUARDIANSHIP, EXECUTORSHIP, etc., will be undertaken as faithfully as possible. Circulars, giving full details, forwarded on application. DIRECTORS: Thomas Robins, Benjamin B. Conroy, Lewis B. Ashburn, Augustus Heaton, J. Livingston Herrick, Robert H. King, R. P. McCullagh, Daniel Haddock, Jr., Edwin H. Lewis, John D. Townsend, James L. Ochsberg, John D. Taylor, Hon. Wm. A. Porter. President—LEWIS B. ASHBURN. Vice-President—J. LIVINGSTON HERRICK. Secretary and Treasurer—R. P. MCCULLAGH. Collector—RICHARD L. ASHBURN. 2 1/2 1/2

FINANCIAL.

TO FAMILIES RESIDING IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS.

We are prepared, as heretofore, to supply families at their country residences with every description of FINE GROCERIES, TEAS, ETC. ALBERT C. ROBERTS, 11 1/2 Corner ELEVENTH and VINE Streets. ALPINE SAUCE—PREPARED BY AN OLD caterer, pure, wholesome, appetizing; pronounced by good judges the best table sauce in the market. SELSER & BRO., No. 30 N. WHARVES, Philadelphia. 5 1/2 1/2

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